Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 VO-05 CA-01

-----104376 201608Z /42

P R 201420Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4551
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION GENEVA

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, SHUM, WZ

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON REFUGEE MATTERS

1. UNHCR REP SABITI HAS SEEN GOS ORDER DECLARING 44 SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEE STUDENTS AS PROHIBITED IMMIGRANTS; NUMBER COMPRISES 41 YOUTHS FROM THOKOZA SCHOOL (MBABANE 1308) PLUS 3 FROM UNIVERSITY. HE TOLD EMBASSY APRIL 20, HOWEVER, THAT GOS DENIES THAT ORDER HAS BECOME EFFECTIVE. SABITI IS SEEKING CLARIFICATION.

2. CLARIFICATION MAY BE ACADEMIC, THOUGH, BECAUSE ALL 44 HAVE TOLD SABITI THEY ARE SO DISSATISFIED WITH THEIR TREATMENT BY GOS OVER LONG-TERM THAT THEY WANT TO LEAVE SWAZILAND SOONEST THROUGH ANC CHANNELS. SABITI IS SEEING ANC REPS APRIL 20. SABITI BELIEVES GOS IS OF TWO MINDS ON DEPARTURE OF STUDENTS. ON ONE HAND, GOS WILL BE GALD TO RID ITSELF OF REFUGEES; ON OTHER HAND, RESULTING CLOSURE OF MENNONITE-RUN THOKOZA SCHOOL WILL NOT ENHACE GOS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMAGE AND WILL ALSO DEPRIVE GOS OF LEVER FOR ASKING FOR REFUGEE-STUDENT HELP FROM INTERNATIONAL DONORS.

3. AS FOR 14 PERSONS LISTED PARA 3 MBABANE 1281, WHO WERE DETAINED IN GOS CRACKDOWN ON PAC/SWAZILAND, SABITI HAS LEARNED THAT TWO WEREDECLARED PROHIBITED IMMIGRANTS "IN ABSENTIA." THIS LEAVES 12, ALL OF WHOM HAVE DENIED TO SABITI THE GOS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST

THEM. THEY CHARACTERIZE GOS CHARGES AS OUTCOME OF INTRA-PAC POWER-PLAY. NO INFO YET ON MOVEMENT OF THIS GROUP. WACHOB

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Concepts: REFUGEES, PROGRESS REPORTS, STUDENTS

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